



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**Release Date:** March 10, 2009

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## **SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CAN OBTAIN INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE BY CALLING NEW MEXICO SBA SMALL BUSINESS HOTLINE OR VISITING SBA WEBSITE**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico** - - The U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) New Mexico District Office's *Small Business Hotline* is available for the small business community statewide to contact the SBA on available programs and services. The purpose of this hotline is to give small business owners a single telephone number they can call with business and financing related questions, obtain updates, and information on existing SBA programs. They can also obtain updates as they become available regarding the enhanced SBA financial programs and tools that will be available through the *American Recovery Act and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)*. Small business owners may call Toll Free at 800-726-3632, and then select Option 2, followed by selection of Option 3. The telephone number is staffed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Additional information on the Recovery Act is available at the following websites at [www.sba.gov/recovery](http://www.sba.gov/recovery) and [www.sba.gov/nm](http://www.sba.gov/nm).

The hotline has been in place since last October in response to the concerns raised by the state's small business community during these uncertain economic times. SBA employees will evaluate callers' concerns and then refer them to business counselors at the SBA or at the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), SCORE – Counselors to America's Small Business, and the Women's Business Centers (WBCs).

"New Mexico small businesses have questions about today's economic situation as well as questions on the enhanced SBA finance programs identified in the Recovery Act" said John Woosley, District Director of New Mexico's SBA office. "Businesses need to stay focused and not panic during these times. We feel it's important that SBA provide an outlet for our small business community to get the answers they need on questions relating to surviving in this environment and what resources are available that may meet the needs for their business."

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“SBA continues to offer assistance to the small business community. All of SBA’s existing programs are open for business, these include our technical assistance and training, contract assistance, and financing to entrepreneurs”, states John Woosley. “If a small business owner is looking for information on available SBA assistance, they may contact our office via the *Small Business Hotline*, or visit our website. They may also visit our office in Albuquerque located at 625 Silver Avenue, SW, Suite 320.

Small business owners are encouraged to access the management and technical assistance available through our small business resource partners. The partners have business experts that can advise them on ways to enhance their marketing, re-evaluate their business plans, and look for new sources of financing. Many of these services are free of charge and are available throughout the state. SBA partners include:

- Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) – 20 centers across NM; 1-800-281-7232; [www.nmsbdc.org](http://www.nmsbdc.org),
- SCORE – Counselors to America’s Small Business – 3 Chapters in NM; Albuquerque (505) 248-8232; Santa Fe (505) 988-6302 – Las Cruces (575) 523-5627 – [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)
- Women’s Business Centers (Women’s Economic Self Sufficiency Team Corp (WESST Corp)) 6 Regional Offices across NM; 1-800-Go WESST (1-800-469-3778); [www.wesst.org](http://www.wesst.org); Albuquerque (505) 246-6900; Gallup (505) 863-3192; Las Cruces (575) 541-1583; Rio Rancho (505) 892-1238; Roswell (575) 624-9850 and Santa Fe (505) 988-5080.

In addition to the assistance available through our resource partners SBA provides over 25 self-paced, online business courses covering a variety of topics including: business planning, loan packaging and marketing. Small business owners can access the free online business training on the SBA Webpage at <http://www.sba.gov/services/training/onlinecourses/>. Small business owners may also access the SBA Publications Library at <http://www.sba.gov/tools/resourcelibrary/index.html> that offers information on various areas on running or starting a business.

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